

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01 /093 W
----- 000321

R 221440 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2798

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0431

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: WAGE BOARD SUBMITS PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW
UNSKILLED WAGE LEVELS

1. WAGE BOARD WHICH DURING PAST TWO MONTHS HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING
ADEQUACY OF MINIMUM WAGE LEVELS FOR UNSKILLED WORKERS IN ABOUT
SIXTY

LOW-PAID CATEGORIES IN THIRTY TRADES HAS RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE
INCREASES RANGING BETWEEN 32 AND 54 PERCENT TO NEW LEVELS WHICH
NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO MAY 18 RAND DAILY MAIL, STILL QTE FALL
FAR SHORT OF POVERTY DATUM LINES CALCULATED FOR METROPOLITAN
AREAS.
UNQTE.

2. SAG, ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF WAGE ACT NO. 5 OF
1957 HAS PUBLISHED WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS IN GOVERNMENT
GAZETTE

WITH INVITATION TO INTERESTED PARTIES TO PRESENT OBJECTIONS.
RECOMMENDATIONS CALL FOR FURTHER INCREASES IN TWO STAGES: FIRST,
AFTER ONE YEAR AND THEN AFTER TWO YEARS.

3. ARTHUR GROBBELAAR, GENERAL SECRETARY OF TRADE UNION COUNCIL
OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA) HAS PUBLICLY DENOUNCED RECOMMENDATIONS
POINTING OUT THAT TUCSA AND OTHERS URGED WAGE BOARD DURING JOHAN-
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NESBURG HEARINGS IN APRIL TO BASE INITIAL NEW MINIMUM LEVELS ON PRESENTLY DETERMINED POVERTY DATUM LINES WITH PROVISIONS FOR RAISING THEM OVER THREE YEAR PERIOD TO MINIMUM EFFECTIVE LEVELS WHICH ARE ROUGHLY 50 PERCENT HIGHER THAN POVERTY DATUM LINES.

4. WAGE BOARD NOW REQUIRED TO CONSIDER OBJECTIONS RECEIVED WITH VIEW TO MAKING CHANGES PRIOR TO SUBMITTING FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTER OF LABOUR WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IT WILL BE TO MAKE LEGALLY BINDING QTE WAGE DETERMINATIONS UNQTE. (SAG FOR ITS PART HAS ALREADY POINTED OUT THAT WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS DEAL ONLY WITH MINIMUM LEVELS AND THAT MANY UNSKILLED WORKERS ARE ALREADY RECEIVING WAGES WHICH ARE HIGHER THAN PROPOSED NEW LEVELS.)
LUTKINS

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPE TOWN
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